

March 7, 1999

ENTERTAINMENT

Chorale sings spirited 'Seasons'

Show deserves larger audience

The promise of springtime ... a summer thunderstorm ... the toil of an autumn harvest ... winter fog.

They're a part of "The Seasons," and a good deal more.

The notable, two-hour oratorio by Franz Josef Haydn has come to life this weekend on the stage of the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater in Medford.

The Rogue Valley Chorale, close to 80 voices strong, gave "The Seasons" its first-ever Rogue Valley performance Saturday night. The concert repeats today.

It's a worthy project, one deserving of a larger audience than the 175 or so who attended Saturday night.

Saturday's audience was treated to a spirited performance with many highlights.

Joining the chorale, under the direction of Lynn Sjolund, were four soloists, a pianist, an organist and a six-member woodwind section.

Particularly outstanding was David Gustafson, guest artist from the San Francisco Bay area, whose beautiful, strong tenor voice was a joy to hear.

Also in fine voice was soprano Linda Fountain, who makes her home in the Rogue Valley and has performed with the Rogue Valley

Cleve Twitchell



Review



The Rogue Valley Chorale presents its last performance of Franz Josef Haydn's "The Seasons" at 3 p.m. today at the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater in Medford. Cost is \$12 for adults; \$5 students. Call 779-3000.



Fountain

Springtime passages speak of "From heav'n's vault, now shines" and "O, how lovely is the morning of this welcome Spring."

Summer speaks of "fields alive with colorful crowds" and the drama of thunder clouds.



Gustafson

Autumn is depicted as a time of "satisfaction at the abundant harvest" and a beautiful piece called "Hark!

Hear the sound of the horn."

And then winter — "The year, now dying, sinks to rest," and "By icy chains the sea is held."

The evening ends with the soloists and double chorus singing the triumphant, "The glorious morning dawns at last; from heaven sounds the trumpet call."

It's an impressive work, impressively performed.

If you'd like to know more about "The Seasons" before hearing it, plan to attend a pre-concert lecture by Russ Levin, development director for the Britt Festivals.